

The INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITED AUSTRALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

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RUSSIAN TRADES UNIONS CALL TO THE WORKERS

The capitalist press has lately been trying to make believe that trade unions are being oppressed under the Soviet regime. The following spirited call to the workers from the Pan-Russian Council of Trade Unions is sufficient reply to such lies. It was issued on the occasion of the League of Nations Labour Conference at Washington. Owing to lack of space we are compelled to omit the first half dealing more specifically with the traitorous endorsement of this Bogus Labour Conference by the official Labour leaders; and we are glad to recall that "The International" opposed the sending of a delegation from South Africa on the same grounds as the Russian Trade Unionists. The translation is by Colin Wade from the French.

—"The International."

To-day, when the League of Nations has become in the eyes of the whole world the league of the stranglers of small and weak nations; to-day, when the League of Nations becomes clearly the moral centre of international reaction; today, when the League of Nations is transformed into a murder of liberty and of the revolution, and when there is no longer any corner of the world which is not reached by the stinking breath of this league of fraud and brigandage, is it possible that to-day the proletariat can still be invited to enter this den of corruption, debauchery, hypocrisy and cynicism? After having considered the work of this league of butchery for a whole year, can you still drag the proletariat into this war-factory and sacrifice it to this international trust for the exploitation of imbeciles?

Do you think the proletariat will follow you and allow itself to be dragged in your tracks before the building above whose door is inscribed in the blood of

tens of millions of workers the words: "League of Nations"?

No! the European proletariat, a rebel against its masters will be able to properly appreciate such lackeys.

But the supplicants sent to Washington on their masters' business are not only failures; they are, moreover, hypocrites, for what other name can you give them after the refusal to admit the German and Austrian delegates to the Conference.

What! you won't admit the Germans and Austrians because they have approved of all the crimes of their ruling classes, because they have been the lackeys of their governments!

Do you then think that you have a monopoly of servility. You think, then, it is permissible to be the good little boy to Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd-George, and Foch, while to act in the same way to Hertling and Hindenburg must be prohibited?

IGNOBLE HYPOCRITES!

Patriotic Socialists, whether Austro-German or Anglo-Franco-American, you resemble each other as perfectly as one drop of water resembles another, and as for you supplicants at Washington who hang on to Wilson's coat-tails as to an anchor of safety, you have no room to boast before your brothers in treason from the central empires. You are of equal value.

WORKERS AND LABOURERS! The Central Pan-Russian Council of Trade Unions addresses itself to you and to our unions in all countries. The industrially organised proletariat of Russia launches its protest against this ignoble lie and this shameful violence to all that

is sacred in the soul of the struggling proletariat.

Some individuals, removed from the masses, some traitors who have passed into the camp of our class enemies, continue to speak in the name of the proletariat, in the name of Socialism. After having sanctioned the murder of tens of millions of proletarians, they now want to secure the permanence of that regime which leads automatically to fresh slaughter and further international conflict.

In entering this League of Nations, they place the seal of the workers' organisations on all the crimes of this league of assassins.

By sitting in the ante-chambers of the ruling classes and supplicating their aims, they corrupt the conscience of the popular masses and lead them to hope that humanity can get itself out of the impasse into which it has been led by international imperialism, without engaging in a bitter struggle against the bourgeoisie, without revolution, without the dictatorship of the proletariat.

LABOURERS! WORKERS! You are being deceived.

Look at the hands and at the deeds of your leaders. Ask them what the League of Nations has given to the proletarians. Ask them for whom the Hungarian Soviet was crucified. Ask them who supplied weapons to the Roumanian assassins. Ask them by whom and whose order were killed the thousands and thousands of the Hungarian proletariat.

And then ask them who is supporting Koltchak and Denikin, who is organising the White Guard plots in Russia, who are furnishing money and arms to the Russian monarchists, murderers of entire

populations of Jews, who pay the wages of all the murderers of Russia, who has helped to water the plains and valleys of Russia with the blood of tens of thousands of workers and peasants.

Ask them all that, and when they speak to you of the League of Nations, of agreement with the bourgeoisie, of the power the second International will have (this consumptive assembly of traitors) to restrain universal imperialism, of the possibility of softening the pitiless dictatorship of capital by the conclusion of an armistice between the classes, all in the interest of the proletariat and of Socialism—when they tell you these things, say to them in a firm, unshaking voice, in the voice of the revolting proletariat, repeat to them the words of the trade unions of Russia, framed on experience in the struggle:

"Imperialism or Socialism: dictatorship of the bourgeoisie or dictatorship of the proletariat; League of Nations or Third International—there is not, and cannot be, any middle course.

"Out of the way, you infamous liars and hypocrites, the social revolution moves forward.

"Long live the world-wide proletarian revolution.

"Long live the universal Soviet Republic.

"Long live the Third International!"

Signed for the Bureau of the Central Pan-Russian Council of Trade Unions:—Glebov, Kozolev, Kossier, Dridzo-Loyovski, Loutovinov, Esol, Storojenko, Tomski, Chakhnovski, Schmidt.

Moscow, 8th October, 1919.

REVOLUTION IN GERMANY

The general tendencies of the movements of the classes in the German revolution outlined in last week's issue, seem to have been well in accord with the facts as they have been reported in the press during the past week. The question, as previously stated, was briefly that there is no essential difference between the monarchists and the majority socialists, led by Ebert and Scheidemann, both representing different sections of that class which lives by virtue of its ownership of the means of life necessary to all. Nevertheless, the workers would quite correctly act in the same direction as the majority socialists when these sought to overthrow, and suppress the monarchists. The workers, however, are impelled by economic development to carry on the civil war to the point of capturing from the bourgeoisie, that is, the majority socialists, the chief state power, as concentrated in the coercive functions of the state itself.

The news from Germany presents on the surface, a problem seemingly difficult to solve. The monarchists, under Dr. CAPP, seem to have failed in their attempt to oust Ebert, but yet there is an apparent agreement between these two groups. The interpretation placed upon this by the patriotic press of both England and this country, is that the monarchists merely gave way to a set of men who might be able to obtain better conditions from the Allies at the Peace Conference,

to a set of men under whom Germany might be allowed by the Allies to regain her lost international standing. But it may be taken as an obvious truth that no class in society voluntarily gives up its supremacy in the state; that it only does under the greatest pressure, when it can no longer defend its position. To believe, therefore, that the monarchy abdicated in Germany for any other reason than it was forced to, is to hold a belief that is not in accord with historical fact. In former times an emperor "abdicated" when he died sword in hand; to-day, the same act is carried out in a less violent manner; it is done "in the best interests" of and for the "welfare" of "my" people.

On the same ground we must object to the idea that there has been a coalition administration formed by Ebert and the monarchists for any other reason than that they were forced to do so by the situation brought about by the economic development of the country.

While the two sections of the German master class were fighting for political supremacy, the revolutionary element was seeking to rouse the proletariat to take the first step towards its emancipation—the seizure of political power itself. When this movement assumed such proportions as to threaten the private property of each and every section of the master class, the workers found that they were confronted with a united property

owning class. Press reports show that the Spartacides have been exceedingly active and that practically the whole of Germany is in a state of civil war. As soon as the class-conscious workers sought to take advantage of their better knowledge of the needs of a working class revolution and the state of civil war, it became imperative that the propertied class should fight them, and not each other.

That this is not merely a matter of theory, and perhaps open to debate, let us recall how the Liberal bourgeoisie of England actually incited the workers to revolt in 1842, in the hope of forcing the Tory Parliament and Ministry to repeal the Corn Laws. A combined meeting of the Liberals, that is, the manufacturers, and the Chartists, held in February of 1842, was the beginning of a fresh and violent agitation for the repeal of these Corn Laws, in which agitation the Liberals encouraged the workers to such an extent that the Chartist movement took on a decidedly revolutionary colour. When, however, the bourgeoisie realised that the workers understood that their activity would benefit not themselves but the bourgeoisie, the latter stood behind the Government in opposition to the workers. The Liberal bourgeoisie merely wanted the workers to "do the dirty work" of getting the Corn Laws repealed, but when the right of private property was threatened, the master class, whatever its practical politics, stood

together.

As in England, so in Germany; a section of the master class sought to identify its interest with that of the workers, and thereby use the workers as their tool to maintain political supremacy. They failed because the revolutionary situation that had developed in Germany forced, at least apart, the workers to the realisation of their exploitation and slave status, and that through independent proletarian political action to dominate the state, lay their only path to emancipation.

The reported Red Army of 100,000, fully equipped, which has met with considerable success in so short a time, seems to indicate that the organisation of the revolutionary workers has proceeded upon different lines to those followed in November, 1918. The Red Army seems to have been able to undertake action which would lead to its becoming master of the situation. Sixteen months ago the Spartacus men were not even able properly to organise themselves, when, with the aid of the agents provocateurs, the bourgeoisie, then labelled as "socialist," massacred them with typical German thoroughness. The lesson then learnt was not to be forgotten, and whatever measure of success has thus far attended Spartacus activity, must be attributed to their being able to perfect their organisation in spite of the government and its agents

Continued on page 2

The International Socialist.

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RAY EVERITT, Managing Editor.

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er "I.S.", 115 Goulburn St., Sydney,
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The Elections

Of the Parties that contested the elections
the A.S.P. seems to be the only one that is
satisfied with the results. The A.L.P. is an-
noyed over not getting "a working majority";
the Nationalists are certainly displeased at
their glaring defeat; then along with these
two main parties are the numerous lesser
lights, all of the opinion that they were treated
badly at the poll.

Other parties gauge their success by the
number of votes secured. Were we to do like-
wise we would certainly have cause to de-
spair, as 370 was the highest vote polled, it
being the vote received in the Wollondilly
Electorate, 121 for Sydney and 61 for Balmain,
and there is little likelihood of these figures
being increased much by the absentee votes
that are still to be counted.

However, low as the figures are, they display
an improvement on the past, but even this im-
provement is not the source of the satisfaction
on our part. The Australian Socialist Party
realises that to-day the main activity must be
education, and using the elections for this pur-
pose, it judges the success or failure of same
by the amount of propaganda that time and
finance enables it to put in.

From our viewpoint, that of propaganda, the
elections were undoubtedly a success. Good
meetings were held in the electorates con-
tested; the size of the electorates, of course,
made it impossible to cover the whole of each,
but good support was received in the centres
that were touched. Besides these meetings
thousands of leaflets were widely distributed.

It is not a question of counting the votes
so far as we are concerned, for until conditions
become more favorable to Revolution and a
great deal more class propaganda is carried
out the vote will be such a negligible quantity
as not to warrant worrying over. The elections
gave us the opportunity of getting in a good
deal of propaganda, and having made the most
of it we are quite satisfied with the results,
knowing full well that the seeds sown will
bear fruit in the near future.

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ECONOMIC CLASS.

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the Economic class, which is held in the
A.S.P. Hall, Liverpool Street, EVERY MON-
DAY EVENING, AT 8 P.M.

The Moral Damage of War

By MARCIA.

The world to-day may be well likened to a
witch's cauldron, seething and bubbling with
impurity and filth. Our imagination can go still
further, and we can see the vile hags of pov-
erty, disease and crime moving around the
hideous mess, casting in their poisonous in-
gredients and making the contents of the cau-
dron bubble and seethe more fiercely than ever;
while over them all hovers their dread parent,
the Demon of Capitalism, who still holds his
infernal sway.

Even the most callous, phlegmatic individual
cannot feel unmoved when the increasing
spread of disease, immorality and crime is un-
folded before him; no one attempts to deny the
fearsome state of affairs; but they are by no
means agreed as to the cause and solution.

The religious people will tell you that the
world has become wicked and irreligious, that
mankind needs a change of heart; the reform-
ers advocate certain palliative measures; the
prohibitionists denounce the influence of strong
drink, but the scientific socialist boldly asserts
that the cause of crime is economic conditions
and the remedy is a change of system.

It is an acknowledged fact, however, that
crime, poverty and disease, although they have
always been bad, have enormously increased
throughout the world during the last few
months, and we unhesitatingly state that the
war, in itself a product of capitalism, is mainly
responsible for their spread.

And after starting from that premise, let
us proceed to make it good.

For four years the world has been turned
into a shambles and been bathed in blood.
And to make our point clear let us again re-
iterate that war and militarism are inevitable
results of the system.

Says Bongor:—

"The relation between capitalism and war
is always so close that we can find in the
economic life the direct causes of the war
waged under the Empire of Capitalism."

Again:—

"Our present militarism is, therefore, a
consequence of capitalism."

"The double duty of the army proves it:
for its function is to furnish the bourgeoisie
with the means of restraining the proletariat
at home and of repulsing or attacking the
forces of foreign countries."

So in 1914 war was declared in the interest
of the master class, and now peace (?) is
reigning the working class who fought and bled
are feeling its dread effects.

For four years the war fever held sway;
for four years people saw red and lusted for
blood; for four years the previously existing
morals were cast to the winds.

We must not forget that prevailing condi-
tions govern morals as well as other things,
and crime and immorality are determined by
what is in the interest or otherwise of the
ruling class of society; the latter having the
power to class any action as a crime that it
so desires.

Consequently during the war this same mas-
ter class saw fit in many respects to relax
the moral code and license, debauchery and crime
reigned supreme; the Church, since its incep-
tion a strong ally of the ruling class, aiding
and abetting.

The commandment, "Thou shalt not kill,"
was naturally considered to have no bearing
on the war; it meant something else altogether.
"Thou shalt not commit adultery" was allow-
ed to be broken with impunity. More prospec-
tive wage slaves were required to replenish the
population.

"Thou shalt not steal" did not apply to
enemies' goods; cleanliness, decency, were
cast aside, and a state of savagery, if it is not
an insult to the savage, reigned on the battle-
fields of Europe.

And now peace is proclaimed, those men who
for four years lived in the midst of filth, blood
and horror are coming home to civilisation.

That disease in many and varied forms
should spring up like poisonous fungi, was in-
evitable when we think of the heaps of rotting
corpses and unburied dead, and dealing prin-
ciple with immorality and crime, we can say
that these are also inevitable results of the re-
cent upheaval.

Here we have thousands of men dumped
back into the countries they left in order to
fight the battles of their masters; and the point
to be particularly noted is, that conditions of

war having changed to conditions of peace, the
morals have again changed, and the ruling
class have decreed that actions they winked
at during the war are crimes punishable by
heavy penalties.

And the result—these thousands of men,
many of whom are demoralised, many of whom
are broken physically and mentally, and all of
whom are hardened and brutalised, for the
four years' environment must have its effects,
are cast loose on society to live in the best
way they can.

They come back to find rotten economic con-
ditions to find their wives carried away by
the storm of license that has been prevailing;
to find their homes broken up, and many of
them to actual starvation.

Is it surprising then that these men who
for years have been taught to take what they
want, and if any one attempts to prevent them
to use violence, should put these teachings in-
to practice when they bump trouble at home?
Let us again quote from Bongor:

"We now come to the influence of the war
itself. That which at ordinary times is one
of the gravest crimes, homicide, is com-
manded in war; ravages and burnings are
the order of the day. It is inevitable that
those who are driven to commit such acts,
lose little by little their respect for the lives
and property of their fellows. War arouses
a spirit of violence, not only in those who
take part in it, but in the whole population."
(Black type mine).

Since these results have occurred to all wars,
is it not quite feasible that after this last con-
flict, the greatest in history they should in-
crease in like proportion to such an alarming
extent?

Of the crimes themselves it is not neces-
sary to deal, suffice to state their wide spread
prevalence; and if anything was needed to sup-
port our contention we are amply supplied by
the "Sun" of 23/2/20, when sentences were
passed upon two returned soldiers for man-
slaughter.

The following defence was made:—

"Mr. Les Gannon, for the defence, said that
the crime was the result of the environment in
which Cook lived. He asked the judge to re-
member that Cook had served three years at
the war, and to consider that if prisoner had
occupied a more elevated position in life the
crime would never have occurred."

But in passing sentence, Mr. Justice Wade
put the position in a nutshell:—

"SOLDIERS AND KILLING."

"Continuing, Mr. Justice Wade said that
the jury had shown a merciful spirit, and in
view of the fact that the accused were re-
turned soldiers the jury had acted quite prop-
erly. If civilians, and not returned soldiers,
had stood before him that day, he would have
taken it upon himself to impose the maximum
sentence. Though there was a feeling of
sympathy and admiration for the men who had
gone to the war, it would be dangerous to allow
sentiment to apply in meting out punishment.
Besides risking their lives at the front, it
would not be disputed that having been charged
with the function of killing, soldiers had be-
come unavoidably hardened by their associa-
tion with the horrors of war. In their sur-
roundings they had become indifferent to the
value of human life, and this condition, long
manifested on the battlefield, had not deserted
them on their return to civil life.

"Therefore," Mr. Justice Wade went on,
"the crimes were really a product of the war.
But there must be limits to any disposition of
mercy."

"CONDITION OF SAVAGERY."

"When soldiers come back from the front
they must endeavor to conform to the stand-
ards of civil life. If the courts did not act
severely we would be reaching, if not a stage of
civil war, at least a condition of savagery, when
the rule of the club would be the rule of life.
The use of firearms and other deadly weapons
must be put down."

"The first thing that struck me when I ar-
rived from England (I had access to the Sydney
papers) was the frequent use of deadly weapons
which were brought into play with little or no
provocation. Beyond the feature of the pris-
oners being returned soldiers, the crimes dis-
play no mitigating circumstances."

So getting down to bedrock, we find that as
with all other evils the capitalist system is re-
sponsible for the fearful wave of crime that
is sweeping over the world to-day; and we re-

peat that only with its end will crime of all
descriptions cease.

Pull up a poisonous weed by the roots and
its deadly flowers and fruit will droop and die.
They have nothing to foster them; uproot
capitalism and its pernicious fruit will also
perish from lack of nourishment. We have to
remember that war in all its hideousness is
an inevitable product of the system, and to end
it we must beyond doubt strike at their
cause.

The whole realisation of the position should
serve only to urge us on to greater efforts
towards educating and organising the mem-
bers of our class towards the day of revolution,
wherein wars and their vile attendants shall
cease.

This contention can well be supported
the state of Russia, who has overthrown
master class, crime there has practically
ceased, and we are assured that as soon
as the Socialist Republic is an accomplished
fact it will cease altogether.

We can only hope that the ever increas-
ing harshness of economic conditions will lead
the workers in the other capitalist nations
the world to follow such a glorious example.

THE OATH OF A SOLDIER OF THE
RED ARMY OF RUSSIA.

1. I, A.B., a son of the labouring
people, a citizen of the Soviet Republic,
assume the calling of a soldier of the
Workers' and Peasants' Army.

2. Before the working-class of Russia
and of the whole world, I pledge myself
to bear this calling honorably, to fulfil
my duties conscientiously, and zealously
to protect from damage or loss the prop-
erty of the people.

3. I pledge myself strictly and unflinch-
ingly to observe revolutionary discipline,
and unhesitatingly to carry out all the
orders of the commanders placed over me
by the Workers' and Peasants' Govern-
ment.

4. I pledge myself to withhold myself
and dissuade my comrades from all acts
degrading and lowering to the dignity
of a citizen of the Soviet Republic, and
to direct all my actions and all my
thoughts towards the great aim of the
liberation of all the workers.

5. I pledge myself, at the first call of
the Workers' and Peasants' Government,
to come to the defence of the Soviet Re-
public against all dangers and all attacks
on the part of her enemies; and, in battle
for the Russian Soviet Republic, for the
work of Socialism and the brotherhood
of the peoples, to spare neither my ene-
gies nor my life itself.

6. If by mischievous design I break
this solemn oath, then may universal
contempt be my lot, and may I be pun-
ished by the stern hand of the revolu-
tionary law.

This oath is renewed annually on May
1st.

(Adopted by the Central Executive of
the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Re-
public at the Session of April 22nd, 1918)

COUNTER REVOLUTION IN
GERMANY.

Continued from front page

drawn from what Marx describes as the
slum proletariat, and from the proletar-
ian parasites upon the master parasites.

The lesson that the proletariat the
world over may well learn is that unflin-
ing effort and self-discipline upon the
part of the revolutionary elements them-
selves is absolutely essential to success.
Level headedness and careful calculation
of future needs are indispensable if the
working class revolution is to be spared
all the evils that follow in the wake of
rashness and irresponsibility. Let the re-
volutionary spirit grow, but let it grow
under the guidance of a clear understand-
ing of the actual nature of revolution and
the obligations it places upon the con-
scious members of the proletariat.
—A.T.B.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND NOTES.

Russia.

The Economic Situation of Soviet Russia

On August 9th, 1919, Miliutin, Vice-President of the Supreme Public Economic Council, made the following statement:

"The attempts of the Allies to create the economic isolation of Soviet Russia have an especially adverse effect on the countries where imperialism is dominant. The raw materials existing in Soviet Russia, such as flax, hemp, timber, platinum, etc., are accumulating, and cannot be utilised to the extent that they should.

On the other hand, Soviet Russia would be one of the largest and most powerful consumers in the world market, and importation into its territories would be of great benefit to world industry.

The Supreme Public Economic Council has drawn up the total of the requirements of Soviet Russia which could be satisfied by imports, and has arrived at the following conclusions. The most important demands are for machines of all kinds, and particularly for agricultural machinery. The Soviet Government considers one of its principal tasks to be that of furnishing agriculture with machinery and implements. The peasant classes, which have considerably increased their holdings of land, are making a colossal demand for agricultural machinery. In addition, the Soviet Government has organised numerous Soviet states on the lands of the former landed proprietors, worked by the most modern methods, and requiring relatively complex machines.

These estates occupy 4,700,000 acres. Although the industry of Soviet Russia is doing its utmost to increase its production of agricultural implements and machinery, home production, as this year's statistics have shown, cannot cover more than 20-25 per cent. of the required amount; 80 per cent. could be imported from abroad.

Next, the Supreme Public Economic Council has concentrated in its own hands, at the present moment, 3,000 nationalised undertakings, selected from amongst the most important, and representing, from the point of view of production, 90 per cent. of the whole of industry. These enterprises are organised into State trusts, as for example that of the engineering workshops.

Nationalised industry has at its disposal a sufficient quantity of raw materials, except in the case of cotton. But from the point of view of machinery, spare parts, or accessory materials, its requirements are far from being satisfied. The statistics presented by the various sections of the Supreme Public Economic Council for foreign imports amount to 25 milliards of roubles (nominally £2,500 millions).

We also feel the lack of drugs and chemical products of all kinds, as well as of motors, etc., all of which would be covered by importation.

Soviet Russia, therefore, with its organised centralised national economy presents itself as an immense market for world-trade. Imperialist policy is pursuing its destructive task by preventing the economic development and the industrial activity of the peoples. On the other hand, the economic policy of the Soviet Government consists in creating a real collaboration of all peoples in the sphere of economic relations.

To this collaboration it invites the workers of the whole world."

A LETTER FROM LENIN.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany having written to Lenin for an expression of his views on the questions at issue between it and the Hamburg section, Lenin replied at great length, expressing the following views:

"From the point of view of Marxist theory, as well as from that of the experience of the three revolutions—of 1905, March, 1917, and November, 1917—I re-

gard the rejection of participation in bourgeois Parliaments, in the reactionary Trade Unions, in the organisations of Legien, Gompers and so forth, as a big blunder. A still greater mistake would be to abandon the ideas of Marxism, and its practical line of policy on the basis of a strong, centralised Party, in favor of the ideas and practices of Syndicalism. The Party must try to take part in the bourgeois parliaments, in the trade unions, and even in the emasculated workers' councils which are being installed by the Scheideemannites; it must be everywhere where there are workers, where one can address workers, where one can influence the working class."

RUSSIA LITERATE IN THREE YEARS.

At a meeting of the Petrograd Soviet on January 17th, Lunacharsky, the People's Commissary for Public Instruction, said that literacy "must be destroyed in two or three years. We must open not less than 60,000 schools. We want to cover Russia with a close network of reading rooms, and to satisfy the country with books."

—Wireless Press.

FRANCE.

French Dockers' Stand for Russia.

"L'Humanité," of December 27th, prints the following communication from the C.G.T.: "On December 19th, an English ship 'Erie II' was in the roadstead at Bordeaux waiting to take on board and transport to Riga, munitions from the military park at Montreuil. The dock workers, however, remembering the promises made at Lyons, at the congress of the General Federation of Labour, by their delegate, refused to assist in the loading of the munitions; the Union intervened, and the men's representatives received a guarantee that the boat would carry only clothes and bandages; the munitions were left on the quay. It is not probable that workers will be found at Bordeaux to load them on board other ships."

A few days ago, at Rochefort and La Pallice, the harbour workers and sailors took similar action."

PARIS—Great unrest is being felt among the marines who enlisted for a 10 year period in a flush of patriotism, and now find themselves "stuck" for several years more with no prospects of advancement and under unpleasant conditions.

These boys enlisted usually at the age of 16, for training in naval academies. After 18 months' schooling they began their lives as sailors.

Due to their vigorous protests through their organ, The Col Bleu (Blue Collar), laws have been passed reducing the period to seven years, but immediate release is the common demand.

AUSTRIA.

VIENNA—An appeal to the allies and to the government of Austria to take steps to remove the reactionary government of Hungary was made at several meetings of workers held simultaneously.

Vigorous protests were made against the wholesale execution of Communists. Otto Bauer, labor leader, appealed for solidarity against a similar reactionary menace in Austria and demanded that the Austrian government search for and expel Hungarian agents from Vienna.

'Memorandum'

As forwarded to the
Prime Minister by P. Simonoff

6d. per copy 7d. posted

A.S.P. Literature Department

A. S. P. NEWS AND NOTES

SYDNEY BRANCH.

The Elections are over, and the Branch will have a spell from the rush and bustle of the campaign; but the usual activities will go on as vigorously as ever, in fact, we are anxious to increase them as far as possible. On Sunday, March 21st, a fine meeting was held in the Domain. Comrades Thomas and Jackson gave the goods to huge crowds, who congregated round the platform eagerly awaiting the speakers.

In the evening, at the Hall, Comrade Jackson lectured on "Revolution and Minorities." This lecture, which was the outcome of much discussion, both by recent lecturers on our platform and by a number of the audience, and undoubtedly a burning question, was dealt with in an effective way by our comrade, and was a great success from a propaganda viewpoint. The address will be reported in detail in next week's issue.

Com. Thomas will deliver a series of six lectures on Sociology, beginning on Wednesday, March 24th, and we are anticipating good audiences.

The Economic Class, conducted by Com. Everitt, is well attended, and valuable work is being done. We also hope to develop speakers at the same time. The recent election has proved how much we could accomplish if we could add to our list of propagandists; and we are anxious to assist our comrades who are eagerly acquiring knowledge to make use of it by mounting the platform and passing it on.

MARCIA REARDON,
Asst. Sec.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH.

On Friday evening, 19th March, Comrade Mrs. Reardon addressed a meeting in our little village on behalf of Comrade Arthur Reardon, candidate for Wollondilly.

Comrade Kirk occupied the chair, and Mrs. Reardon explained in a very able manner the rottenness of present day social conditions and the urgent need for revolution. At the conclusion of the address the speaker was enthusiastically applauded.

The next meeting to be addressed was at Coledale. Mrs. Reardon was listened to very attentively. Several questions were afterwards asked, which received satisfactory answers.

Saturday, 20th, Arthur Reardon gave a splendid lecture on the life and works of Robert Burns. The lecture was held in Scarborough Branch Hall, and a large audience attended.

Texts of the resolution was sent to the neighboring countries with an invitation to unite against the common peril.

VIENNA—Eighteen wives and children of Hungarian peoples' commissars, interned at Karlstein with the Communists, have been set free. Their release was obtained by the Socialist mayor of Milan, who came to Vienna with other Italian officers to escort starving Austrian children to Italy to be cared for.

SALONIKI.

Several railroad strikers have been sentenced to death by courts-martial established in Bulgarian towns to try men identified with strike disorders.

INDIA.

BOMBAY—British troops in India called into service to break the strike of 200,000 Indian cotton workers in Bombay, fired upon peaceful gatherings of workers, causing many casualties.

The strike started the first of January. All the mills in the city closed. The strikers demanded an increase in wages. The average wage of skilled workers in the cotton mills of Bombay range from 4 dollars 40 cents a month. Unskilled workers receive still less.

In cotton mills the workers are often employed as many as 17 and 18 hours a day. In Bombay the workers work for 14 hours or more.

The factories in which the mill-hands work are without any sanitary or health provisions. There is no ventilation.

The Bombay strike is a repetition of a strike which occurred six months ago, the characteristic of which was passive resistance. It was only when British troops fired upon the meetings, killing and wounding large numbers, that any disturbances occurred.

If the people continue turning up in such numbers we will have to enlarge the hall. It is seldom the folks of Scarborough and nearby villages get the chance to listen to such a lecture, delivered by such a capable man as Arthur Reardon. One need not have listened to understand the gist of the lecture; the changeable expressions on the faces of the audience were quite sufficient.

It could be heard of, afterwards, of some of the crowd digging and rummaging around for photos relating to Robert Burns.

Sunday morning we held our usual economic class, taking Vol. 1, Cap., for our topic. In the afternoon Comrade Kirk opened up a meeting on the beach; then called on Mrs. Reardon.

Our comrade dealt with the woman question, and gave the economic history of working-class women throughout the ages, the terrible conditions of the gentle sex and the slavery of to-day, in order that a few individuals who own and control the means of life might gorge and fatten themselves.

She also stressed the point that the position of woman was not, and is not, by any means the fault of the male sex, but the fault of rotten conditions that hold us all enslaved, and that the only way to bring about a change was for all members of the working class to come together as one class-conscious body for revolution.

The next speaker, Arthur Reardon, complimented those 370 class-conscious workers who wanted the boss off their backs. He made it clear that conditions would be very much worse in the near future, when there would be a lot more wanting the boss off their backs.

A question towards the conclusion as to the difference between nationalisation and socialisation was answered with care and intelligence. Judging by the size of the crowd and the questions asked, we have made a good start off for the next three years. We are well pleased with Comrade M. Reardon, and hope to have her down with us again before long.

JOHN HITCHEN.

Socialism in China

The following extracts from an article in the "North China Herald," of 27th September, show that our comrades in China are still in the firing line:

"Every week brings news of the organisation of Labor and Socialist Parties. Newspapers and individuals there are in China who begin to talk glibly of the rights of the worker; at the same time others proclaim such Socialist doctrines as Communism, and the brotherhood of man. . . . Every now and again a special effort has to be noted. Recently an attempt was made in Peking to organise a union of coolies as a political entity.

There was a rumor that Dr. Sun Yat-sen was about to place himself at the head of a Labor Party. It lacked foundation. Dr. Sun Yat-sen has had an extensive acquaintance with Chinese politics, and he is perfectly well aware that as matters stand in China to-day, a Labor Party would be ignored by those who really wield authority. The Tutchens, backed by their numerous soldiery, would make light of a body with any such advanced ideas. . . . A few chapters of Karl Marx have found their way into the Chinese language, much Japanese literature on the subject has been translated, and numbers now swear by their doctrine. Adherents talk of starting a Socialist Party, and occasionally groups are formed. . . . A scheme of electioneering has already been prepared by the students. The politicians look upon it with interest, but with little more, knowing how easily elections can be manipulated under the present system."

Although the Socialist movement in China is only eight or nine years old, more than a few chapters of Karl Marx have found their way into the Chinese language. At one time the Shi Hui Tong (Socialist Party) owned its own printing plant and published three official papers, the "Daily Socialist Star," the "Weekly Socialist Bulletin," and the "Monthly Official Bulletin." Among the pamphlets and leaflets which were printed at this plant and sent out in great quantities, one of the most popular was "The Communist Manifesto." In addition, many branches printed their own local papers, and at one time there were over 50 of these in existence. Besides these, there were some privately-owned papers which supported the Socialist Party. In 1913 the Party had over four hundred branches in China. It is interesting to note that each branch had its own official teachers and readers—for a great part of the membership could not read. In the same year an edict was published dissolving the Party and ordering the arrest of its leaders. Hundreds of its members were executed, and the Party as such completely destroyed. In spite of all persecution, however, the good work was carried on in secret; and again, in the words of the writer quoted above, "numbers now swear by their doctrine."

—From "Data."

Russia Victorious

(Continued from issue of 13th March)

Question: I want to hark back to the question: whether there is any supreme military intelligence. Is Trotzky really a genius in the conduct of his campaigns?

Mr. McBride: Trotzky instills revolutionary fervor in his army; he is one of the most wonderful speakers you ever heard. He is the spiritual force in the army but he is not a general. He doesn't actually conduct the military campaigns.

Question: There is nobody in Russia talking about a return of Napoleon, a military genius?

Mr. McBride: No, you will never have the man on horseback again in Russia. You see, the Bolshevik government has lasted two years, it's had time to educate the rank and file, and when you give the rank and file education unhampered, you can't get your "man on horseback" into power again.

Question: Trotzky devotes himself entirely to the army, does he?

Mr. McBride: Trotzky moves along the front from one command to the other, comes to Moscow once in awhile for consultation and to make a speech, telling the civilians what is going on along the front, and then goes back.

Question: Does he speak to great crowds of soldiers? Is that the way he leads?

Mr. McBride: Yes.

Question: He does not sit in an office, then, but is actually a leader who is out and about?

Mr. McBride: Don't misunderstand, Trotzky doesn't lead the army; he is not on the fighting front. You see, in Soviet Russia they will not allow a capable man to go out and get killed; they can't afford it. They are all willing to sacrifice and die, but the communists have some sense and they insist that the capable leaders, from Lenin down, have got to be kept away from the firing line so that they won't be killed.

Question: Did you see Lenin?

Mr. McBride: Yes, I saw Lenin; I talked to Lenin for an hour and twenty minutes.

Question: What was the most important thing he had to say?

Mr. McBride: I'm going to tell that in an article later.

Question: Well, what was your impression of him?

Mr. McBride: Lenin! I'd like to have him for a brother. You know, before Lenin was shot he used to run loose through the city with no guards at all. Now you have to show your pass to four sets of guards before you can get in to see the man.

Question: Is he quite recovered?

Mr. McBride: He is all right now, but he still carries the bullets in his body. He lay between life and death for six weeks and they were afraid to make any effort to extract the bullets for fear they might kill him. Let me tell you a story about him: You see, in Moscow at the present time the government is feeding 359,000 children and in Petrograd 200,000; this is being done regardless of whether the parents are working or not. The Soviet Government has taken upon itself the responsibility for every child that is born in the country. They have established several maternity homes where mothers are allowed to come every three months before the birth of a child and remain three months after. And they have a school with a six months course in the care of children: 500 young girls come there from all over Russia, take the six months' course and then go back home to make room for 500 more, and so on. That will give you some idea of what they're doing for childhood in Russia, and all the time, understand, they're fighting on the longest front that has ever been fought on in the history of the world.

Well, to get on with my story, Lenin was almost dying that time. He could not take food, only some kind of a liquid, but he was conscious all the time. It finally reached the stage where the doctor thought he should take some of this liquid gruel made for the children. Lenin refused to take it and his wife stood over the bed and fought him for two days to take it, and he wouldn't. He said it was scarce and the children needed it. "But," the doctor said: "You may die." And

they say he smiled—he always smiles—and said: "Other men have died." And he absolutely would not take it and he recovered without it.

Question: I'm interested to know about distribution. What are the stores like? Are there still private shop-keepers?

Mr. McBride: Of course the big department stores in Moscow and Petrograd have become Soviet institutions and the large clothing stores and shoe stores have been taken over by the government, but here and there you will find a small shop where the petty bourgeoisie of the olden days are still holding out. In Moscow there's a speculators' street. You go up there any day and you will find thousands of people within seven blocks. There you see the bourgeoisie of the olden days out on the street peddling, women as well as men, with dress suits in their hands, ladies shoes, jewellery, opera hats and so on, out there trying to sell their old possessions in order to get sufficient rubles to buy food.

You see they have to pay the private speculators 75 roubles for a pound of black bread, whereas if they were working for the Soviet government they could get it for 10 rubles a pound. But these people will not co-operate with the Soviet government. They're always thinking that the invading forces are about to restore the old order.

Question: Do these people get any supplies from the Soviet Government?

Mr. McBride: The people who do no work? No, they are not recognised at all. You must be performing some service in Russia now; it does not make any difference how many rubles you have on you in the yard, you can't go into a Soviet store and purchase supplies unless you can show a card that you are performing some useful work. Of course if you are not able to work you get a card.

Question: You mean there are private speculators still in existence who are selling food and necessities to the unemployed at enormous prices?

Mr. McBride: Yes, there are a few.

Question: Why is it that these few still exist?

Mr. McBride: Because 60 per cent. of the man power of Russia is mobilised. They are busy about something more important. But the speculators are gradually being eliminated. The Soviet worker generally buys in a Soviet store; but he can buy wherever he wants. There is no law against it.

Question: Is the Soviet worker paid in rubles?

Mr. McBride: Yes, the average wage in Moscow at the present time is 400 rubles a month.

Question: A ruble is worth now what?

Mr. McBride: A ruble is worth now about 4 cents. The ordinary soldier in Russia gets 40 rubles a month; but he gets his clothes his shoes, a pound and a half of bread a day. Lenin, Trotzky, Tchitcherine and the other Commissars receive 4500 rubles a month each—about 180 dollars. They must pay their own rent and buy their own food and own clothes. Tchitcherine is half starved. He looks like a shadow. He eats in his office—some cabbage soup and a little piece of fish in the afternoon. Along about midnight, still in his office, he'll have a glass of tea and a piece of black bread.

Question: Are they in that class of sedentary workers who don't get the biggest amount of food?

Mr. McBride: Absolutely. They are not allowed any more food than any other sedentary worker.

Question: Who determines the wages?

Mr. McBride: The Supreme Council of Public Economy in every town gets together with the Trades Unions every two

months and adjusts the wage scale in accordance with conditions.

Question: Do the peasants accept the Bolshevik money?

Mr. McBride: The peasants are reluctant to take it; in fact they don't want money at all, they want shoes. But what can the government do? It cannot give the peasants clothes, it cannot give them shoes, it cannot give them machinery, it cannot even give them salt. If you want to ride half a mile in Russia, you get into a drozhky and the man charges you 300 rubles; but if you say to the drozhky man, "I will give you some salt," he will haul you for six hours.

Question: You said that there are small private merchants still in existence. Isn't it true that there are also big concessions to large private capitalistic enterprises? We hear so many accusations made against Lenin's government from the left, that he is continually making more and more compromises with private industry. Is that true?

Mr. McBride: Within Russia?

Question: Yes.

Mr. McBride: Absolutely not; the only corporation that the Soviet Government has any dealings with at the present time is the World Literature Publishing House, led by Maxim Gorky. It is composed of the best minds in the literary and scientific world in Russia, and is translating the world books. In all the languages to distribute by the million to the peasants as soon as they can get paper enough. There are 500 volumes ready now. That is a private institution under the control of the Soviet Government and subsidized by the Soviet Government.

Question: What about the Norwegian concessions?

Mr. McBride: Oh, yes, they are willing to grant concessions to the Norwegians; they are willing to grant concessions to the Danes, to any outside expert, so long as he agrees that the people working for him are subject all the time to control by the laws governing the Soviet Republic. The cannot work there longer than the Soviet hours, he must pay them the regulated Soviet wage regardless of whatever profit he is able to make.

Question: The point is they can exploit the forests and mines but they can't exploit the workers, they cannot make slaves of them?

Mr. McBride: Yes, that's it. Tchitcherine said to me, "Tell the people of the United States that there is flax here, there is timber here, there are many things here in Russia. We will give them a lease for 49 years, provided that the exploitation goes on subject to the control of the law of the Soviet Government."

Question: But they don't make concessions to anybody inside! There simply don't exist any great rich corporations!

Mr. McBride: Absolutely not. And the only reason they make concessions to foreigners is because they need their technical help.

Question: What is the philosophy of this revolution? Uncompromising before the revolution takes place, then after?

Mr. McBride: Then after, compromise to preserve the revolution.

Question: Yet, you would call men like Lenin uncompromising men?

Mr. McBride: I certainly would. Lenin and Tchitcherine say to you: "Now, go back to America. Tell them to take their forces away. We will grant them concessions, we will give them anything they want, we will pay all the debts that the Czar contracted. Just let us alone and give us a chance to go back into production. We know we compromise, but we compromise in the interests of the revolution."

Question: In saying that, has he the support of the Communist Party back of him?

Mr. McBride: Yes, and of the Executive Committee, composed of 200 men, and of the Soviet Congress. There was a dissension at the time those concessions were offered, but almost everybody in the party is reconciled now.

Question: Does all the Left opposition now, come from the anarchists?

Mr. McBride: No, it comes from the extreme Left Bolsheviks, too. There is just a thin line of demarcation between them and the anarchists. They object to the central control, and they object to restriction of liberty in Russia.

Question: Aren't the leaders themselves fearful sometimes that there may be too much centralisation in their government?

Mr. McBride: Yes, Lenin especially, always fearful of it; but they hold that centralization is absolutely necessary at present, and only a fool would hold otherwise. You can't have absolute local autonomy with an enemy that has a spear around you. You have got to have a compact organization that compels revolutionary obedience, and that is what they strive for.

Question: How does Gorky lean?

Mr. McBride: Gorky is just a pure simple pacifist. He is a literary man, has never mingled in the politics of the country, one way or the other. The thing that sickened him in the revolution was the killing on both sides.

Gorky said to me, (I wrote it all down and I'll read it to you), "When you go back tell the Americans for the sake of humanity to leave Russia alone. I thoroughly understand that there are too many people in America who have a vision, who have no comprehension of what Russia is, but after all you have a few enlightened people in America, and please tell them that Russia is not a Central Africa without statesmanship or constructive genius."

"Russia is well able to take care of herself. In the near future a statement will be issued to the outside world in the name of the best brains of Russia, science and literature showing the accomplishments under Soviet rule. The Jews in Russia are playing a part that will live in the future and will be written in golden letters to the memory of the Jewish race."

Is was Gorky, who told me about the factory right outside of Petrograd where they are converting sawdust into sugar.

Question: That's a new discovery?

Mr. McBride: Yes; that was discovered by workmen in the factory. Another workman invented some new way of making the big fishing nets they use; the nets used to last two years, now they don't have to bother with them for eight years. Gorky says that during less than two years of Soviet rule they have made more discoveries than in two generations of Czar.

Gorky is a wonderful man. This is what they are doing under his leadership. They are preparing a series of dramas and scenarios illustrated with scientific exactness, showing the history of man from the Stone Age, through the Middle Ages, up to the French Revolution. They now have 25 scenarios ready.

(Continued Next Week.)

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With a view to making the information contained in the pamphlet available to all students of the Russian Revolution, the Australian Socialist Party is publishing it.

LECTURE EVERY SUNDAY

A.S.P. Hall, Liverpool St.

Printed and Published by William Joseph Thomas, at 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney, for the Australian Socialist Party.